

New Mexico - Congressman Harry Teague concluded his “Solutions for Southern New Mexico” tour on Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. The weeklong event, which began in Eunice on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, took the Congressman to visit all 18 counties in the 2<sup>nd</sup>

Congressional District. Throughout the week, he met with constituents, community leaders and attended various events across the district.

As part of his “Solutions for Southern New Mexico Tour,” Congressman Harry Teague hosted 20 “Harry in Your Hometown” events to meet with constituents. They were well attended and Congressman Teague discussed issues ranging from improving veterans services, to healthcare and the state of the economy. On the economy front, Congressman Teague updated constituents on the work he is doing to invest in communities, create jobs, and help improve the local economy. In addition to investments from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Congressman Harry Teague has worked with community leaders across southern New Mexico to secure funding for local projects, including:

### **Catron County:**

**Reinvesting in our Communities.** The Village of Reserve received over \$1 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The funds, which Congressman Teague helped to bring to the city, were used for the rehabilitation of downtown Reserve, main streets and transportation enhancements.

**Housing Improvement Projects.** Congressman Teague worked with tribal leaders to secure over \$1.3 million in stimulus funds for multiple housing improvement projects in the Zuni Pueblo. The funding went towards 15 projects that improved housing facilities and living conditions in the pueblo.

## **Chaves County**

**Supporting NMMI.** Congressman Teague worked with local leaders to secure \$300,000 for the Native American Criminal Justice Program at NMMI. The program was developed to increase opportunities for Native Americans to attend college and to enhance the quality of law enforcement on our Indian reservations. The NMMI Native American Criminal Justice Program uses their unique structure as a four-year high school college preparatory curriculum with a two-year junior college in which there is a one year Academy Preparatory program for the five Federal Service Academies to provide opportunities for Native Americans to obtain an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice as a first step toward a successful career in law enforcement.

**Enhancing the Aviation Maintenance Technology Center in Roswell.** \$300,000 in funding secured by Congressman Harry Teague for the flight research training center will help the program provide a critical training function currently lacking in most pilot training curriculums. The data collected by the project suggests that pilots, even military pilots who are the best trained in the world, are unable to reliably recover from the type of extreme upset events that

can lead to a loss-of-control accident without this type of specialized training. The program aims to build the substantive base of evidence documenting how training enhances the ability of pilots to properly react both in a timely and appropriate fashion to prevent recoverable events from becoming catastrophic.

### **Cibola County:**

**Keeping Kids Safe.** Congressman Teague worked to secure \$350,000 in funding for Acoma Pueblo’s Youth Mentoring Program. The funds will create a mentoring program for teenagers that have been identified as “high risk” by the Pueblo of Acoma tribal court system. The program aims to lower delinquency and related indicators such as substance abuse, violent behavior, and truancy among Native youth and increase the number of high risk youth receiving mentoring. Teenagers involved in the program and high school peer mentors will have access to employment skills training and opportunities to experience adventure, skills-based activities intended to decrease risk factors associated with juvenile delinquency

**Increasing Transportation Resources.** The Pueblo of Laguna received \$96,250 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to improve public transportation in the area. With the funding, the pueblo purchased an 8 passenger van with lift, a new bus shelter/garage for vehicles, and administrative office supplies.

**De Baca County:**

**Investing in Health Services.** The De Baca Family Practice Clinic was awarded \$328,540 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to expand services throughout the area. Strategies to expand services may include, but are not limited to, adding new providers, expanding hours of operations or expanding services.

**Scheduling Reservoir Operations.** The project, run by the Army Corps of Engineers, received \$453,000 in appropriations. The Corps provides reservoir flood control regulation for the Bureau of Reclamation’s Brantley Dam, Sumner Lake, and Navajo Reservoir under Section 7 of the Flood Control Act of 1944.

**Dona Ana County:**

**Improving Healthcare Services.** Congressman Teague secured \$300,000 for the Ben Archer Health Center (BAHC) in Hatch to purchase digital x-ray equipment and dental digitizers to give

medical providers at the Hatch site the ability to have immediate reading of x-rays from other BAHC locations. The new equipment will provide better quality and the ability to archive x-rays.

**Keeping Kids Safe.** The City of Las Cruces will be able to expand after-school programs that preventing delinquency and promoting a gang-free environment by providing afterschool, weekend and summer programs. The \$250,000 in funding will help the program utilize community resources including linking youths to mental health agencies, after school tutors, Boys and Girls Club, or mentoring programs.

**Expanding Biofuel Resources.** Congressman Teague worked with leaders at NMSU to secure funding to develop algal biofuels for aviation and optimize gas turbine design for these algal biofuels. The \$2.4 million project aims to create algal biomass production that can be used for aviation fuel, electricity and other valuable by-products.

**Renewable Energy Research at NMSU.** The Initiative for Microgrids and Renewable Energy Technologies Research, which received \$750,000 in funding, will address critical national energy issues of power production and transmission, with an emphasis on renewable technologies and electrical microgrids. The study aims to show how the grid can evolve and integrate distributed micro-grids that will utilize such renewable and distributed resources to benefit New Mexicans while ensuring a more reliable and stable power grid.

**Finding Oil Resources in New Sources.** Congressman Teague helped secured \$176,000 for

NMSU researchers to continue to apply genetic engineering technology toward the development of new high-value agricultural crops yielding industrial products, such as high-temperature lubricants, non-polluting epoxies, and industrial nylons.

**Irrigation Solutions for Agriculture.** The NMSU Efficient Irrigation project aims to increase agricultural and urban landscape irrigation efficiency and encourage efficient water market development in the basin. This \$161,000 initiative will continue to develop efficient agricultural and urban landscape irrigation systems to conserve water in the Rio Grande Basin.

**Cataloging Genes Associated with Drought and Disease Resistance at NMSU.** The \$176,000 project at NMSU will test hypotheses about how crop plants and plants native to the drought prone American Southwest alter metabolism in response to drought and diseases stresses along with other environmental factors.

**Helping Farmers Fight Pests.** NMSU scientists have combined knowledge of plant regulatory genes with insight into potential pest toxins in order to build into plants the ability to release pesticides when and where the bug bites. The program receive \$209,000 in funding. Farmers lose millions of dollars annually to crop damage from pests such as nematodes and consequent inefficient use of water.

**Preventing Soilborne Diseases.** NMSU’s Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) will use the \$187,000 secured to continue studying methods for preventing crop damage due to soilborne

diseases in irrigated agriculture.

**Range Improvement in Dona Ana.** The project consists of the Range Improvement Task Force (RITF) to respond to growing concerns of natural resource users and the general public. Congressman Teague worked to secure \$223,000 for the initiative at NMSU.

**Supporting Dairy Farmers.** Researchers at NMSU will use the \$350,000 in appropriations to expand the Southern Great Plains Dairy Consortium, which addresses the major research and educational needs of the rapidly expanding dairy industry in the Southern Great Plains of New Mexico and Texas, extending into Oklahoma and Kansas.

**Protecting Livestock from Illness.** Early recognition of both naturally occurring and intentionally introduced pathogens can aid in preventing their rapid spread across livestock and poultry populations. Congressman Teague helped secure \$404,000 for NMSU’s Rapid Syndrome Validation Program. Timely response to disease outbreaks will minimize animal suffering, protect the food supply and public health, and mitigate potentially devastating effects on the national economy.

**Southwest Consortium for Plant Genetics and Water Resources.** NMSU’s Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) received \$271, 000 in appropriations funds for the Southwest Consortium for Plant Genetics and Water Resources. Researchers will continue to develop innovative plant biotechnology advances in agriculture in arid and semiarid regions.

**NMSU’s Food Safety Laboratory.** Congressman Teague worked with university leaders to secure \$1.65 million in funding for this initiative that works with the FDA. The laboratory evaluates new rapid test methods for microbiological analyses of food pathogens for possible regulatory use.

**UAV Systems and Operations Validation Program.** This project at NMSU, which received \$232,000, will address a major shortfall of the existing DoD knowledge base, which is expertise and technology focused on small to mid sized UAVs.

**Southern New Mexico Science, Engineering, Mathematics, and Aerospace Academy (SNM/SEMAA).** Congressman Teague secured \$200,000 for SNM/SEMAA, designed to engage underrepresented youth in activities in the fields of science, engineering, mathematics, and technology. By participating in SNM SEMAA, students between 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade become interested and engaged in the science, technology, engineering and mathematic fields, providing more trained workers in these fields.

**Restoring the Environment.** The continued authorization of a project located in the reservoir pool area formed by the existing Las Cruces flood control dam constructed by the Corps of Engineers in the 1970’s. Proposed improvements include restoration of riparian vegetation and native Chihuahuan desert vegetation, designated scenic overlooks, wildlife observation areas, trails with interpretive features, and a parking facility for visitors and users of the open space.



**Preventing Flood Damage.** Authorization for a feasibility study in Hatch to help optimize a flood damage reduction plan for Hatch. Flooding originates from two sources-Spring Canyon and Placitas Arroyo. Structures and roadways have been significantly impacted by flows from the surrounding mountains, significantly flooding the community three times in the last 15 years.

**Eddy County:**

**Protecting WIPP.** Congressman Teague fought to add \$20 million in funding for the WIPP above the President’s budget request. The additional funding was supported by local leaders. The WIPP has been successfully disposing of nuclear waste for 10 years. The funding will go toward job preservation, improved environmental cleanup, and infrastructure improvement.

**Bolstering Local Green Energy Projects.** Center of Excellence for Hazardous Materials Management (CEHMM) primary focus is on growing, harvesting, and deriving oil from algae, as it is currently the only prospective feedstock that has the potential to replace billions of gallons of petroleum diesel without impacting production of food. Additionally, CEHMM is growing algae in brine water as to not diminish fresh water supply. The project has rapidly advanced from lab

and bench scale research to pilot scale research, with the operation of two 25,000 gallon algae ponds at the NMSU Agricultural Science Center. A permit for a 50,000 gallon pond is currently awaiting approval. CEHMM is conducting this research in association with NMSU and is receiving inquiries from national and international companies regarding collaboration.

**Water Reuse Project for City of Carlsbad.** In an effort to conserve potable water, Congressman Teague worked to secure \$300,000 to continue the City of Carlsbad’s Wastewater Effluent Reuse Program. Since January 2000, the City has been irrigating the Municipal Golf Course with wastewater effluent at a rate of approximately 430,000 gallons per day. The proposed project consists of upgrades to the effluent water delivery system, installation of aeration/holding ponds, construction of a 10-inch effluent transmission line, and tie-ins to the existing main irrigation lines to facilitate irrigation of 200 acres of city parks north and south of the golf course.

**Improving our Infrastructure.** Congressman Teague worked to make sure that reconstruction of San Jose Boulevard from Diaz Street south to National Parks Highway would be possible. The \$987,000 project will include the installation of a center turning lane and a bike lane, concrete curb and gutter and sidewalks, reconstruction of major intersections, street lighting and storm drainage improvements. The project is 2.4 miles long. San Jose Boulevard is used as an alternate route for traffic between U.S. Hwy 62/180, the Airport and the Industrial Park complex and U.S. Hwy 285, Downtown Carlsbad and the business district. San Jose Boulevard also serves as a major arterial relief and alternate route through Carlsbad for vehicles traveling along U.S. Hwy 62/180. The existing 25-foot wide section with no shoulders is inadequate to safely accommodate turning movements with the volume of traffic encountered.

**Grant County:**

**Preserving National Forests.** Congressman Teague worked to ensure \$3 million for Bear Creek Ranch in Gila National Forest. The ranch is the largest private inholding remaining in the Gila National Forest. Instead of having a dense contiguous acreage, the property extends for eight miles along Bear Creek, a tributary of the Gila River. It is rare for the Forest Service to have the opportunity in New Mexico or indeed anywhere in the West to acquire a tract covering such a long stretch of an important riparian corridor and watershed.

#### **Guadalupe County:**

**Recovery Funds Bring New Hospital.** The Guadalupe County Hospital received \$9.4 million in immediate federal funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The funding will go to replace the outdated care center currently in Santa Rosa. The new facility will house a 10-bed acute care hospital and medical clinic. The hospital, the only emergency care facility over the 275 miles between Albuquerque and Amarillo, will service the people of Guadalupe County as well as several other surrounding small villages and communities. Congressman Teague attended the groundbreaking on December 29, 2009.

**Strengthening Infrastructure.** Congressman Teague worked to secure \$1.4 million in funding

for the Santa Rosa Dam and Lake. The project provides flood damage reduction as one unit of the flood control plan for the Pecos River and its Tributaries. The project, located on the Pecos River, consists of an earth and rock fill dam 1,950 feet long and 212 feet maximum height above the streambed.

**Fostering Business Growth.** The Ilfeld Warehouse Business Incubator project will serve as an anchor for the Downtown Central Business District. As a business incubator, the City of Santa Rosa will work with the local economic development agency to assist with public private partnerships business start-ups. The incubator, which received \$175,000 in funding, will house a visitor and interpretive center and the Santa Rosa Main Street office.

**Restoring Blue Hole Lake.** Congressman Teague worked with local officials to secure \$216,000 for a feasibility study to analyze aquatic ecosystem restoration and protection alternatives in order to improve environmental quality around the Blue Hole. Ecosystem restoration will occur in the parking area adjacent to Blue Hole, the Blue Hole fishing ponds, the wetland areas south of Blue Hole Lake, and El Rito Creek.

**Strengthening Janes-Wallace Memorial Dam.** The Janes-Wallace Memorial Dam, located on El Rito Creek, received \$315,000 in funding for a feasibility study to analyze potential aquatic ecosystem restoration and protection alternatives in order to improve environmental quality. The dam was damaged by a flood in May 1999, and, as a result, the state of New Mexico breached the dam. This has led to a decrease in the quantity and quality of aquatic habitat and an increase in exotic vegetation.

**Reconditioning Bottomless Lakes State Park.** The project at Bottomless Lakes State Park, which received \$831,000 in funding, will remove salt cedar from 37 acres of wetlands, improve water delivery to 48 acres of wetlands by modifying the outlet channel, create open water habitats and provide for supplemental wetland plantings.

#### **Hidalgo County:**

**Developing Training Programs.** The New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology received \$3.2 million to further develop the Playas Training and Research Center (PTRC). This funding will help establish the PTRC as a Joint National Training and Experimentations Site for the National Guard Bureau (NGB), as well as the National Guards of the various states and territories. Playas is envisioned as becoming an integral portion of the Joint National Training Capability.

#### **Lea County:**

**Strengthening Emergency Preparedness.** Congressman Teague partnered with local law enforcement and emergency service groups in Lea County to secure \$600,000 for the Lea County Emergency Operations Center. The center will serve as a disaster “war room” and communications center and as a secure 24-hour 911 center for the entire county. In addition, this project will serve as a back-up for surrounding counties in New Mexico (Chaves, Eddy, and Roosevelt) and Texas in the event of a major disaster in any of these areas.

**Promoting Small Business.**□ The Hobbs Hispano Chamber of Commerce Business Incubator and Training Center will receive \$200,000 to provide equipment and programmatic support for a business incubator that will serve as a "one-stop shop" for start-up and fledgling business in the area. The incubator will provide area entrepreneurs with an array of targeted resources and services to include accounting, management, marketing, and manufacturing information. According to the Hobbs Hispano Chamber the incubator and training center is estimated to create 12 full-time jobs within the first six months and a total of 36 direct jobs through participating businesses within the next 36 months.

**Supporting Local Public Transportation.**□ The City of Hobbs Transit System has been operational with newly placed Fixed Route Transit Services for the past year and ridership has increased 45% during the last year. Congressman Teague worked to secure \$900,000 toward the construction of a facility that will include bus maintenance and administrative areas.

**Economic Development for Jal.**□ Congressman Harry Teague secured \$400,000 for the City of Jal has to begin converting a former Jr. High School into a “Flexible EnergyPlex Facility”. The funding will be used for roof repairs and modifications to the building. This targeted investment will promote future economic development for Jal.

**Lincoln County:**

**Recovery funds complete Ruidoso Wastewater Treatment Facility.** The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, supported by Congressman Teague has provided \$3 million toward the construction of a new Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant that will serve the village, the city of Ruidoso Downs and portions of the Mescalero Apache Reservation. The project is underway and currently has 75 people working with an estimated total of 125-150 jobs created once the project is in full swing.

**Luna County:**

**Creating Community Spaces.** Congressman Teague helped secure \$399,340 in funding for the Luna County Community Recreation Facility to house dedicated youth activities, practice space, and community meeting rooms. The funding was used for the renovation of the old Pepsi Building.

**Enhancing Local Law Enforcement.** The Luna County Sheriff’s Department received \$250,000 in funding to provide patrol units and substations with laptop computers to further strengthen our local law enforcement capability. The department did not have any laptop computers for patrol use and deputies are required to drive long distances to enter incident reports.

**Creating Clean Energy Jobs.** Congressman Teague worked with business leaders to secure over \$100 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment funding for clean energy company Sapphire Energy. The funding will be used for the creation of an algae-based biofuel refinery facility that will create 750 direct and indirect jobs will be created through construction, administration and operation of the facility.

## **Otero County:**

**Bringing UAV’s and New Jobs to Holloman.** The new \$37.5 million training complex at Holloman Air Force Base will bring an additional 750 personnel and 28 Predators and 10 Reapers to Holloman. Congressman Teague fought to secure funding for the two-phase project, which will create an MQ-1 FTU squadron, with about 17 Predator UAVs and some 300 airmen and an MQ-1 squadron, an MQ-9 Reaper squadron, and the FTU wing staff.



**Holloman Fire/Crash Rescue Station.** Currently, the F-22 fleet at Holloman AFB is supported by an outdated fire station whose distance from the F-22 hampers the ability of emergency personnel to respond quickly to emergency situations. Congressman Teague made securing the \$10.4 million for a new Fire/Crash Rescue Station at Holloman top priority.

**Support for the F-22 Fleet.** The \$5.5 million in funding for this project that Congressman Teague helped secure will go toward building a new maintenance facility to support the F-22A armaments package, which includes forward-firing and air-to-ground precision guided munitions. The current munitions facility has limited capability due to the previous wing assigned aircraft (F-117A). The lack of a new facility would make the F-22A unable to perform its full range of assigned missions.

**Exploring Renewable Energy Sources.** Congressman Teague worked with local leaders to secure the funding to develop plans for the assessments needed to pursue alternative energy generation and storage options at White Sands Missile Range. The \$1.6 million study will examine solar, nuclear, geothermal, and algae fuel sources to reduce the energy burden on the current commercial power grid and the risk to military and Homeland Security missions in the event of a power grid failure.

**Enhancing Flight Test Technology at Holloman.** The \$5 million secured by Congressman Teague for the high speed test track at Holloman AFB will demonstrate the ability to conduct low cost flight tests in a controlled and vibration-free environment, significantly reducing future test costs for critical hardware. The cost of conducting flight tests on critical missile, propulsion and sensor systems in a vibration-free environment can be prohibitive.

**Fostering Regional Partnerships.** Representatives from Ft. Bliss, White Sands Missile Range and Holloman AFB worked with Congressman Teague to secure \$3.76 million for the second phase of their regional partnership program. The project provides essential tools to facilitate schedule, coordinate de-confliction of air, land and frequency assets, and coordinate real-time test and training missions across the three bases.

**Securing our Infrastructure.** A project near Alamogordo aimed at intercepting flood flows from the Sacramento Mountains was awarded \$2.9 million. The project consists of two concrete and rip-rap lined diversion channels with 100-year flow capacity and a flood detention structure.

## **Sierra County:**

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**Improving Healthcare Facilities.**□ Congressman Teague worked with community and business leaders to secure \$125,000 for the Sierra Vista Hospital. The funding will be used for the new construction of the critical care hospital, serving a large, rural area of Southern New Mexico.

**Socorro County:**

**Furthering Space Innovation.** Congressman Teague worked to secure \$4 million for Smart Instrument Development at the Magdalena Ridge Observatory, operated in part by New Mexico Tech. The funding will be used to support the development and sustainment of smart, advanced instrumentation for imaging space objects. This is in support of the existing MRO mission and will advance the capabilities of the observatory, particularly in the area of Space Situational Awareness (SSA).

**Strengthening Infrastructure.** The Rio Grande Floodway project from San Acacia To Bosque Del Apache received \$756,000 in funding to reconstruct approximately 44 miles of existing west side spoil bank levee located along the Rio Grande. The effort will enhance the protection of the Rio Grande Low-flow Conveyance Channel from Rio Grande flooding.

**Valencia County:**

**Enhancing Local Law Enforcement.** Congressman Teague worked with community leaders to secure \$400,000 for the Valencia County Law Enforcement Uniform Records Management System. Instituting the technology for a uniform law enforcement records management system for Valencia County will benefit all Law Enforcement in Valencia County including the municipalities of Los Lunas, Belen, Bosque Farms, and Peralta. The technology will allow all officers with every agency in the county to use and access the same records management system from the computers in their cars.

**Making Homes Energy Efficient.** The Central New Mexico Housing, Inc. was awarded \$143,000 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The funding was used to provide weatherization assistance to 24 low-income home owners in Valencia County. The efforts aim to reduce energy consumption and improve energy retention-including installing insulation for homes and modernizing large appliances such as air conditioners and heating units.